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3 November 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: *Your Briefings of the NSC Executive Committee*

1. On 23 October you gave a brief intelligence report saying that construction at the sites was continuing.

[REDACTED]

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At an evening meeting that day you briefed on military developments within the WARSAW Pact countries,

[REDACTED]

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2. On 24 October you briefed on the continued rapid progress in the completion of the missile sites and of the fact that 22 Soviet missile ships were en route to Cuba.

3. On 25 October you told the Group there had been no change in the construction pace; you covered the Watch Committee report ~~saying~~ that

[REDACTED] you described the Soviet ships ~~by~~ route to Cuba carrying helicopters; ~~you~~ covered the departure of a Cubana plane from Canada to Havana; and also briefed on the turn-around of 15 of the 22 Soviet ships.

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At an evening meeting you briefed in detail on the status of Soviet shipping

[REDACTED]

4. On 26 October, which was attended by Stevenson, you covered the Watch Committee report which concluded that [REDACTED] had completed measures for an alert but that there were no significant deployments. You [REDACTED] continued construction at the missile bases, estimating that it had cost the Soviet less than one-half as much to put these in Cuba rather than build ICBM's in the USSR. You summarized the status of shipping and made the point that ~~non-blockade~~ *non-Bloc* ships could carry Soviet arms, and you reviewed briefly Castro's apprehensive reaction to the US quarantine. *He seems to fear an uprising.*

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5. On 27 October you told the Group that three of the four MRBM sites at Sam Cristobal and two sites at Sagualagrande appeared fully operational and covered the latest Watch Committee report on Soviet military developments.

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6. On 28 October you agreed to lend all appropriate support to the effort to brief General Rikhye at the UN. You directed that Ray Cline participate in the draft reply to Khrushchev's letter. You asked that Cline insure supporting your position ^{that} the removal of the missiles should not end by giving Castro a sanctuary.

7. On 29 October you covered the following:

a. Construction continues;

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e. The Watch Committee report was noted.

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After the meeting you talked with the President and Secretary Rusk emphasizing that Castro ^{might} remain in Cuba with a greater security and this is the situation we must be careful of.

8. On 30 October you told the Group available data does not indicate preparation for dismantling and noted continued construction of nuclear storage bunkers. Many of the missile ^{erectors} had been removed and are no longer visible. You covered the shipping situation and pointed to the

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danger of sabotage in Latin American countries urging that all Embassies and consulates be alerted. You also covered the Watch Committee Report which concluded [redacted] and you reviewed briefly current developments in Laos, South Vietnam, and India, [redacted]

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9. On 31 October you told the Group that there was continued evidence of construction and concealment but noted that evidence that some of the launchers had been moved from the MRBM sites might be construed as the first step at dismantling. [redacted]

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[redacted] There was discussion of the "intelligence gap" and you reviewed the Cuban SNIE of 19 September, noting that it failed to fully appraise ^{all} reports available.

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10. On 1 November you briefed on [redacted] You pointed out that Cuba probably would engage in reconnaissance with anti aircraft fire since they had ^{claimed} that they had developed a pattern of reconnaissance. [redacted] ILLEGIB

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[redacted] You noted there had been no reconnaissance in Eastern Cuba since 23 October. Decision was made at this meeting to cover [redacted] size of San Julian and MRBM sites.

11. On 2 November you told the Group there was evidence that the Soviets were dismantling missiles, but the assembly of ¹⁴ 28 bombers was continuing.

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